

1. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate comprising:
a metal plate;
an electrically conductive coating over the metal plate; and
a corrosion resistant overcoating formed over the electrically conductive coating, the corrosion resistant overcoating including graphite;
wherein the electrically conductive coating bonds the corrosion resistant overcoating to the metal plate.

2. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal plate comprises aluminum.

3. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive coating is a graphite emulsion.

4. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive coating includes graphite particles in an organic suspension.

5. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, where the corrosion resistant overcoating includes exfoliated graphite.

6. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating includes porosities that are filled by the electrically conductive coating.

7. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating is a foil.

8. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating includes particulate graphite flakes which have been processed through an intercalation process.

9. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating is electrically conductive.

10. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating is hydrophobic.

11. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating is anisotropic.

12. (Amended) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating has a thickness approximately between 0.04 and 1.0 millimeters.

13. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated bipolar plate for a fuel cell, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal plate;

providing an electrically conductive coating over the metal plate; and

providing a corrosion resistant overcoating over the electrically conductive coating, the corrosion resistant overcoating including graphite;

wherein the electrically conductive coating bonds the corrosion resistant overcoating to the metal plate.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the electrically conductive coating is an emulsion, suspension or paint including graphite particles.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the corrosion resistant overcoating includes exfoliated graphite.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of providing the corrosion resistant overcoating includes pressing at least one sheet of graphite foil over the electrically conductive coating.

18. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of:
forming a flow field on the corrosion resistant overcoating.

19. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of:
mechanically deforming the metal plate, the electrically conductive coating and the
corrosion resistant overcoating to create a flow field.

20. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated bipolar plate for a fuel cell, the
method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal plate;
providing an electrically conductive coating over the metal plate; and
providing a corrosion resistant overcoating over the electrically conductive coating, the
corrosion resistant overcoating being electrically conductive and hydrophobic;
wherein the electrically conductive coating bonds the corrosion resistant overcoating to the
metal plate.

21. (New) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate comprising:
a metal plate including an outer surface;
an electrically conductive coating over the outer surface; and
an overcoating formed over the electrically conductive coating, the overcoating including
graphite, the overcoating including porosities that are filled by the electrically conductive coating.

22. (New) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate comprising:
a metal plate including an outer surface;
an electrically conductive coating over the outer surface; and
an overcoating formed over the electrically conductive coating, the overcoating including
graphite, the overcoating being a foil.

23. (New) A coated fuel cell bipolar plate comprising:
a metal plate including an outer surface;
an electrically conductive coating over the outer surface; and

an overcoating formed over the electrically conductive coating, the overcoating including graphite, the overcoating having a thickness approximately between 0.04 and 1.0 millimeters.

24. (New) A method of manufacturing a coated bipolar plate for a fuel cell, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal plate with an outer surface;

providing an electrically conductive coating over the outer surface; and

providing an overcoating over the electrically conductive coating, the overcoating including graphite;

wherein the step of providing the overcoating includes pressing at least one sheet of graphite foil over the electrically conductive coating.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the metal plate is heated during the pressing step.
